

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2802

Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley

February 24, 2006

An act to add Section ~~44239.5~~ 44265.2 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2802, as amended, Pavley. Teacher credentialing: *optional early learning childhood education* credential.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other things, establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. *Existing law requires the commission to award specified types of credentials to applicants whose preparation and competence satisfy its standards, including credentials for teaching specialties that include, among others, early childhood education.*

This bill would require the commission to establish an optional early childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 that is to be built into the multiple subject teaching credential and would require the optional credential to consist of 24 units of early learning training to be determined by the commission and the State Department of Education. The bill would provide that these units of early learning training are to be built into the existing multiple subject teaching credential program and are not to add more units to that program.

~~This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, by July 1, 2008, and in collaboration with the California public~~

institutions of higher education, to develop an early learning credential required to be held by a teacher of preschool, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, and to submit that proposed credential to the commission for approval and implementation. The bill would require the commission to adopt an early learning credential for those teachers by July 1, 2010. The bill would require, by July 1, 2016, all teachers in preschool, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, to have a bachelors degree and an early learning credential, or a multiple subject credential received prior to July 1, 2010, with 24 units in early learning.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44265.2 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 44265.2. (a) The commission shall establish an optional
4 early childhood education credential for kindergarten and
5 grades 1 and 2 that shall be built into the multiple subject
6 teaching credential.

7 (b) The optional early childhood education credential shall
8 consist of 24 units of early learning training to be determined by
9 the commission and the department. However, these units of
10 early learning training shall be built into the existing multiple
11 subject teaching credential program and shall not add more units
12 to that program.

13 (c) The purpose of the early childhood education credential is
14 to provide teachers with the option of selecting a specialized
15 early childhood education credential for kindergarten and
16 grades 1 and 2 to improve the quality of instruction for young
17 children, as the skills necessary to successfully teach young
18 pupils differs greatly from the skills necessary to teach middle
19 school pupils. The benefits include improved pupil performance
20 and making teachers more marketable in an area of teaching
21 they enjoy.

22 SECTION 1. ~~Section 44239.5 is added to the Education~~
23 ~~Code, to read:~~

24 44239.5. (a) ~~By July 1, 2008, the Superintendent, in~~
25 ~~collaboration with the California public institutions of higher~~

1 ~~education, shall develop an early learning credential required to~~
2 ~~be held by a teacher of preschool, kindergarten, and any of~~
3 ~~grades 1 to 3, inclusive, and submit that proposed credential to~~
4 ~~the commission for approval and implementation.~~

5 ~~(b) By July 1, 2010, the commission shall adopt an early~~
6 ~~learning credential for the teachers specified in subdivision (a).~~

7 ~~(c) By July 1, 2016, all teachers in preschool, kindergarten, or~~
8 ~~any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, shall have a bachelors degree and~~
9 ~~an early learning credential, or a multiple subject credential~~
10 ~~received prior to July 1, 2010, with 24 units in early learning.~~